# MONTANA TEEN DRIVER CURRICULUM GUIDE Lesson Plan & Teacher Commentary

# Module 1 – Parent Meeting (revised November 2016)

# **Lesson Objective:**

The student, with parents or guardians:

- 1. Completes program registration, if required;
- 2. Understands course schedule, requirements, and expectations of the teen student and the parents/guardians;
- 3. Understands Montana's graduated driver licensing (GDL) law;
- 4. Understands best practices in GDL and parental involvement that include:
  - managing their teen's graduated learning process through each stage of the GDL;
  - tips on supervising the driving practice during the initial permit phase;
  - tips to determine when their teen is ready for the next step in driving;
  - objectives for success and significant hazards associated with each driving phase; and
  - information and tools to negotiate and adopt a written agreement between the teen and parent(s) that reflects the expectations of both, including clearly defined restrictions, privileges, rules, and consequences that serve as a basis for the teen to earn, and for the parent to grant, progressively broader driving privileges; and
- 5. any other information that the district considers important for the successful and safe completion of driver education.

#### **Materials Needed:**

- 1. Module 1 PowerPoint Presentation
- 2. Module 1 Lesson Plan/Teacher Commentary (printed out)
- 3. Module 1 Fact and Work Sheets (printed out)
- 4. Traffic Education forms and handouts, if applicable

#### **Module 1 Content:**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Course schedule
- Requirements (complete necessary forms)
- 4. Expectations of the teen student and the parents/guardians
- Montana Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) law

# Montana Teen Driver Education & Training Welcome!

You can have this slide on the screen as parents arrive.

#### **TEACHER COMMENTARY**

The following are questions you can ask during the presentation to engage parents/students and encourage questions. Representation of the module slides are provided to allow you to connect the materials, data, and questions with the presentation.

# **Slide 2: The Parent Meeting**

Parent Meetings Required (10.13.307 ARM)

An approved traffic education program for young novice drivers must include a parent meeting at the beginning of the driver education class.

# Driver Education Parents/Guardians Meeting

- · Review traffic education schedule
- Requirements and expectations of the student driver and parents, guardians.
- Montana Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) law
  - Requires 50 hours of supervised practice driving including 10 hours at night with a licensed parent/guardian.
  - Teen drivers need 2 hours of driving practice each week to meet the required 50 hours within 6 months. Learner licenses are valid for one year.
  - Limits passengers and restricts night driving with first year solo license.
  - No traffic tickets, alcohol or drug use.
  - Everyone wears a seat belt at all times in the vehicle.



# Slide 3: Kids are Watching.

Be a good role model, actively participate and calmly supervise driving practice.

More information about the GDL and resources for parents and teens on the OPI's website: <a href="http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd">http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd</a>

# Kids are watching. Be the driver you want your teen to be.

- YOUR TEEN TO DE.

  Always wear your seat belt and make sure everyone in the vehicle is buckled up.
- Stay off your cell phone while driving.
   Actively participate with your teen during driver education.
- Calmly supervise teen driving and encourage safe driving habits.
- Once your teen is licensed, set driving rules, limits and consequences.
- Know Montana's Graduated Driver
  License Law: https://doimt.gov/driving/driverlicensing/ligraduated.driver-licensing



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# Slide 4: What are the risks facing young teen drivers?

- They lack experience behind the wheel
- Drive too fast
- Passengers, distractions, fatigue
- Drugs and alcohol, impairment
- · Not wearing seat belt

#### What are the risks facing young teen drivers?

- Lack of driving experience
- Judgment
- Distractions, including passengers
- Fatigue
- Alcohol is involved in about 16% of fatal crashes involving 16- and 17-year-old drivers



These factors cause crashes, but what kills?

Not wearing a seat belt





## Slide 5: We all need to buckle up - stats

On Montana roadways in 2015:

- 224 people died in crashes.
- 118 deaths are attributed to not wearing a seat belt.
- 86 were ejected.
- 200 of 248 of unbelted passengers suffered fatal or serious injuries.
- 111 of the 118 unrestrained people died in crashes on rural roads.
- Seventy percent (70%) of the time, when the driver is unbuckled, children in the vehicle are also unbuckled.

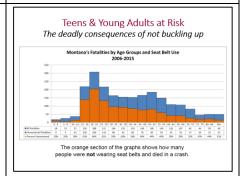
Data Source: Montana Department of Transportation 2015

# Slide 6: Teens & Young Adults at Risk

MDT Fatal Crash Data - Ten Years 2006-2015

The orange section of the graphs shows how many people were **not** wearing seat belts and died in a crash.

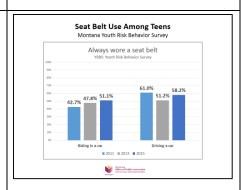
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# **Slide 7: Seat Belt Use Among Teens**

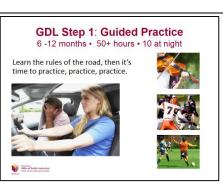
Youth Risk Behavior Survey data – 2011, 2013, 2015

Young Montana drivers and passengers who say they always wore a seat belt.



# Slide 8: GDL Step 1 – Guided Practice

Guided practice is essential to building skill, especially driving. To build competence, novice drivers need a minimum of 50 hours of supervised practice driving under varied conditions before they get their license.





# Slide 9: GDL Step 1: Learner's License

Seatbelts required – for everyone – all the time

Requires 50 hours of supervised practice driving including 10 hours at night with an adult. Teens need 2 hours of driving practice each week to meet the required 50 hours within 6 months. See slide xx for GDL Factsheet and Driving Practice Log.

Traffic Education Learner Licenses (TELL) are valid for one year and can be renewed for teens who need more practice.

Even after they get their license teens will likely need more opportunities to practice in specific conditions with an adult, such as ice and snow, if they learned to drive in the summer.

# GDL Step 1: Learner's License Pass the written test. Drive with adult supervision: 50 hours (10 at night) for at least 6 months. Keep a driving log. No alcohol, drugs or traffic tickets. Must wear a seat belt.

Research supports a second stage of driver education after 6 months of practice. The Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) offers the Alive at 25 program and Montana DRIVE offers teen summer workshops (http://www.MontanaDRIVE.mt.gov).

# Slide 10 - Practice driving conditions

Practice driving in varied road and stormy weather conditions as teen's driving skills improve.

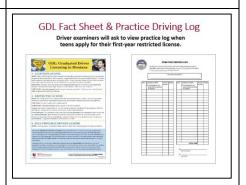
- Understand parents' crucial role.
- Support more parent involvement in the learning-to-drive process.
- Support driver education/training policies that bolster the role of driver education instructors.

# As your teen's driving skills improve, practice driving in varied road and stormy weather conditions.

# Slide 11 – GDL Fact Sheet & Practice Driving Log

Take this log into the car with you every time you drive together to log the required hours during Step 1 of the GDL.

- GDL information
- Log hours driving
- Bring to driver examiner when applying for restricted license; they will ask for it.

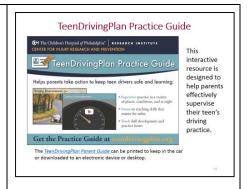




# Slide 12: TeenDrivingPlan Practice Guide

This interactive resource from The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia includes information and tools from the **TeenDriving Plan (TDP) Practice Guide** and is designed to help parents effectively supervise their teens' driving practice.

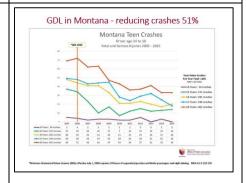
A randomized, controlled trial found that teens with families that followed the TDP program were 65 percent less likely to make dangerous driving errors. These families also increased their variety of practice to boost driving performance.



### Download here: http://teendrivingplan.org

#### Slide 13: GDL in Montana

Fatal and serious injuries caused by drivers age 14-18 **dramatically** decreased (-51%) since the Graduated Driver Licensing law was passed by the Montana Legislature in 2005. The law went into effect in 2006.



# Slide 14: Montana GDL Step 2

Set limits and have family rules that teens understand are about safety, not control. Montana's GDL places limits on teens during their crucial first year of solo driving. Agreements between you and your teen are an excellent way to hold your teen accountable while they are beginner drivers. Gradually increase driving privileges as your teen gains skill and competence, and shows responsibility.





# Slide 15: GDL Step 2: Restricted License

- Seatbelts required for everyone all the time.
- Passengers First 6 months only one who is not a family member.
- Second 6 months up to 3 passengers who are not family members.
- Best practice is no passengers.
- Night restrictions teens can't drive between 11:00PM and 5:00AM unless it's an emergency, or you're travelling to school, church, work or farm activities.

# Slide 16: Why are Passengers Restricted for New Teen Drivers?

ONE passenger doubles the risk. THREE or MORE quadruples the risk.

IIHS – Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Research Used with permission from AAAFTS



Best practice is to avoid all night driving. The real risk is darkness.



# Slide 17: Highest lifetime crash risk

"In the early months of unsupervised driving, the majority of teens exhibit good driving habits however, the study did find instances of texting behind the wheel, horseplay with passengers, and running red lights."

"While a very small number of instances of deliberate risk-taking behavior were observed, the vast majority of "close calls" involved judgment errors that seemed to be indicative of inexperience and failure to anticipate changes in the traffic environment. A common scenario involved the teen braking hard after having initially failed to notice that traffic ahead was slowing or stopped."

2011 AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety Report Authors: Arthur Goodwin, Robert Foss



Highest lifetime crash risk is in the first year of independent driving.

Lowest risk is when driving with a parent or guardian.



### Slide 18: Inexperience = More Crashes

This 2003 research is old, but the fact remains that driving experience matters. The longer teens drive, the more the risk of a crash drops.

It's clear: crashes drop sharply after 6 months and 1,000 miles of licensure. However, the crash risk among younger drivers remains twice that of adults until age 25.

Teen drivers are 50% more likely to crash in the first month of having a license than they are after a full year of experience. Drivers in their first month are nearly twice as likely to crash as they are after two years' experience.

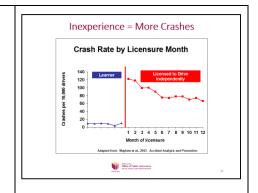
AAAFTS 2011, Measuring Changes in Teen Crashes During Early Months of Independent Driving

# Slide 19: Teens and Judgment

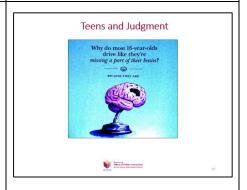
From an advertisement published by Allstate Insurance:

"Even bright, mature teenagers sometimes do things that are 'stupid.' But when that happens, it's not really their fault. It's because their brain hasn't finished developing. The underdeveloped area is called the dorsal lateral prefrontal cortex. It plays a critical role in decision making, problem solving and understanding future consequences of today's actions. Problem is, it won't be fully mature until they're into their 20s."

More resources: Adolescent Brains are a Work in Progress: Here's Why. Frontline – PBS: <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/tee">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/tee</a> nbrain/work/adolescent.html



57% of crashes in which a teen was partially responsible during the month involved three common mistakes – failure to reduce speed, inattention, and failure to yield.



More on this subject:

NPR Story: The Teen Brain:

It's Just Not Grown Up Yet

(March 2010)

http://www.npr.org/template s/story/story.php?storyId=1 24119468



#### Slide 20: Can I borrow the car?

Start the conversation that might keep your teen from crashing.

# Notes from a Children's Hospital of Philadelphia speech:

- Giving teens their first car is an important milestone in many families, something parents might use to reward good grades, job responsibilities, or other achievements. Parents also look forward to the end of chauffeuring and want to give their kids more freedom and responsibility.
- Teens are leading much busier lives. Giving them primary access to a car may be seen as necessary. But the combination of more time in the car, speeding, and using handheld devices while driving puts these teens at increased risk of crashing.
- An additional vehicle might make it more practical, but Mom and Dad should still control access. Teens with primary access might also have less monitoring by parents.
- A teen with his or her own vehicle might become the chauffeur for friends. Peer passengers are a common crash risk.

# Slide 21: Teen: Can I ride with a friend?

Teens' risk of dying in a car crash nearly doubles when passengers are present.

Teen drivers need extra rules and monitoring by parents or guardians to keep them safe. Don't hesitate to ask who is driving and how much experience they have. Know where they are going and when they're coming back.

Driving is not a RIGHT, it is a PRIVILEGE. Drive by the rules, keep the privilege.



A teen's lifetime crash risk is the highest it will ever be the first year after getting their license.

A newly licensed driver has very little experience; so, for those **first few months**, it's important for parents to monitor their teen's driving and to gradually introduce new privileges.



To learn more about the rules and ways to discuss them with your kids, visit <a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov/Driving+Safety/Teen+Drivers">http://www.nhtsa.gov/Driving+Safety/Teen+Drivers</a>



# Slide 22: Parent: *Is your friend a safe driver?*

The IIHS nationwide fatal crash study of 13-15 year old passengers and drivers during 2005 - 2009 found:

 37 percent of the passenger deaths of 13year-olds happened when a teen was driving. This compares with 54 percent at age 14 and 66 percent at age 15.

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) Status Report Vol. 47, No. 2 March 6, 2012 2012 "Motor vehicle fatal crash profiles of 13 – 15 year olds" by A.F. Williams and J.T. Tison



Teens driving with two or more teen passengers increase the chance of a fatal crash by five times.

Practice Pointers
For supervising parents and guardians

The following slides are examples of lessons your student driver will learn.

Your teen's teacher will share with you other resources and guides to help your teen successfully meet the goals of this course, and help you supervise your teen driver during Step 1

of the GDL process.

Montana Office of Public Instr

#### Slide 23: Practice Pointers for Parents

The following slides are examples of lessons your student driver will learn.

Your teen's teacher will share with you other resources and guides to help your teen successfully meet the goals of this course, and help you supervise your teen driver during Step 1 of the GDL process.

# Slide 24: Steering for Balance and Control

Proper hand position is at 9 and 3 or 8 and 4. Why the new position?

Air bags and power steering. New position keeps arms out of the way.

# Steering for Balance and Control











# **Slide 25: Minimum Following Distance**

Drivers have the most control over the space directly in front of the vehicle. *Don't be a tailgater.* 

# **3-Second Following Distance**

 May be enough time to steer away from a problem on dry surfaces or brake at speeds up to 45 mph

### **4-Second Following Distance**

Provides time to steer out of a problem on dry surfaces and brake out of a problem at speeds up to 80 mph

#### Slide 26: Reference Points

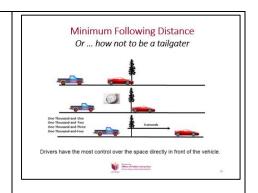
A reference point is seeing some **part of the vehicle** as it relates to the **roadway**. This helps the driver know precisely how far the vehicle is from other objects or where the vehicle is in relation to the road.

Knowing reference points can help with parking (especially parallel parking), backing, moving to the left and right in traffic, and stopping precisely at a crosswalk or stop line.

This skill aids vehicle control and managing the space around your vehicle.

# Slide 27: LOS-POT are Line of Sight – Path of Travel blockages

Not anticipating curves and slowing down is a frequent cause of crashes. Used in driver education, LOS-POT increases awareness of anything that obstructs a view (LOS) of the road ahead such as another car, fence, house, hedge, and anything in the path (POT) or near the path that blocks ability to drive there.

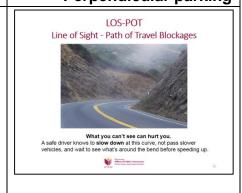


 IT'S EASY TO AVOID HITTING THE CAR IN FRONT OF YOU if you maintain space between you and them.



Knowing where the front end of your vehicle is in relation to parts of your vehicle (bumper, side mirror, etc.) and the road:

- At intersections
- In a stopped position
- Perpendicular parking





# Slide 28: Targeting: Find, Solve, Control

FIND: Finding what is relevant LOS and POT Blockages

SOLVE: Deciding my options to create more space and time

Checking related zones before acting

CONTROL: Putting my decisions into action Lane position, speed control, communication



# Slide 29: Distractions are Often Deadly

Six out of ten teen crashes – 60 percent – involve driver distraction:

- 15% Passengers
- 12% Using a cellphone
- 9-10% Eyes off road, looking elsewhere
- 6-8% Reaching for object, grooming, singing/dancing to music

# Distractions are Often Deadly 6 our of 10 teen crashes involve driver distraction. The meaterwave from of distraction tended to a tender of the control of

#### Slide 30: Disastrous Distractions

The mind has to work in multiple ways to stay focused:

- Visual
- Cognitive
- Manual

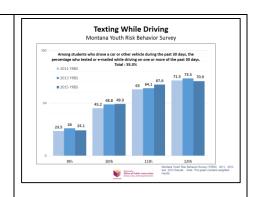
Nearly 8 out of 10 crashes happen within three seconds of a driver becoming distracted.





# **Slide 31: Texting While Driving**

The incidence of texting while driving has steadily increased with the proliferation of mobile phones and handheld devices. More than half of Montana 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders admitted that they texted or emailed while driving.



# Slide 32: How many distractions are too many?

Why is distracted driving dangerous? What other distractions besides texting can take your focus off the driving task?

Distraction occurs any time <u>you take your eyes</u> <u>off the road</u>, your <u>hands off the wheel</u>, and your mind off your primary task: **driving safely**.

Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

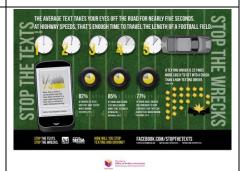


More resources: <a href="http://www.distraction.gov">http://www.distraction.gov</a>

# Slide 33: Stop the Texts, Stop the Wrecks

The average text takes your eyes off the road for nearly five seconds. At highway speeds, that's enough time to travel the length of a football field.

A texting driver is 23 times more likely to crash than a non-texting driver.



# Slide 34: Encourage Safe Driving at Home and School

RedThumbReminders.com TeenDriverSource.org ImpactTeenDrivers.org

More resources for teens and parents at <a href="http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd">http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd</a>

# Encourage safe driving at home and school | PREMISED BETTER THE BOTTOM STATES | PREMISED BETTER THE B

### My life will not end in a car.

#### Slide 35: Traffic Education Policies

- State Traffic Education Program Requirements: ARM 10.307-308
- 25 contact days for each student
- 60 hours with minimum of 6 hours behind the wheel in-traffic driving; instruction scheduled over no less than six student contact days

#### Traffic Education Program Policies

- · Class schedule
- Attendance
- · Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) scheduling
- Driving to traffic education class
- Classroom make-up sessions
- · BTW make-up sessions
- Tardiness and absences
- Drive groups
- · Successful Completion
- Other



# Slides 36 and 37: Montana KEYS Parent/Teen Homework and Montana KEYS Skill Assessment and Parent/Teen Agreement

The purpose of Parent/Teen Homework Assignments is for families to ensure that teens show the knowledge, skill and behaviors for safe driving.

Download the entire KEYS program here: <a href="http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd/Curric/">http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd/Curric/</a>





# Slide 38: Getting Your Montana Driver's License

One of the incentives for teens to enroll in driver education is to qualify for a driver license before age 16. Parents value the professional instruction and guided practice to help their teens develop safe driving skills and habits.

Generally, traffic education teachers cover the first few modules on Preparing to Drive, Basic Control, and Traffic Laws before administering the knowledge exam.

 Students must be at least age 14.5 and enrolled in a state-approved traffic education course to be eligible to take the DOJ/MVD Knowledge test and receive a Traffic Education Learner's License.

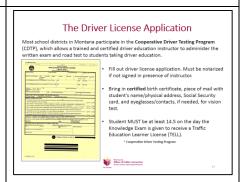


Passing the knowledge exam could create the illusion that teens know how to drive. The Montana **Driver Manual states:** "SECTION 6 - SAFE DRIVING TIPS. No manual can teach you how to operate a vehicle or be a safe driver. Driving requires skill you can only gain through instruction and practice, and even then it all depends on how you choose to apply what you have learned."

# **Slide 39: The Driver License Application**

Most school districts in Montana participate in the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP), which allows a trained and certified driver education instructor to administer the written exam and road test to students taking driver education.

To participate in the program, parents or guardians must fill out a driver license application and provide the same documentation to the school district that they would bring to the driver exam station.





# Slide 40: Plan ahead for the GDL Restricted License

 Make an appointment EARLY, either online or by phone where required
 When scheduling your appointment, fill out the online form in Driver Ed section. 10% of students will be chosen to take the road test



#### Slide 41: At the Driver Exam Station ...

This is a good slide to print out and keep handy for the day you go to the Driver Exam Station to get your restricted license.

Be prepared to pay the fee.

again.

Visit <a href="https://dojmt.gov/driving/">https://dojmt.gov/driving/</a> for more info.

# Slide 42: You're worth holding onto. Belt Up!

The importance of wearing seat belts – every trip, every time, every one – cannot be stressed enough. So many lives have been lost or ruined because people in crashes didn't buckle up.

ALWAYS PUT ON YOUR SEAT BELT







Slide 43: "You've invested in your child to grow them well and keep them healthy and safe. Your time and caring are needed now more than ever."

Parents are the key to safe teen drivers.

### **ENJOY DRIVER EDUCATION!**



Updated November 21, 2016